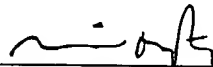


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An examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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FOIA b 5 DECEMBER 2001

**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a U.S. national filing of PCT Application No. PCT/IB00/00310, filed March 20, 2000. This application is also a continuation in part of PCT applications PCT/IL99/00284, now U.S. Application No. 09/701,531, PCT/IL99/00285, now U.S. Application No. 09/701,523, PCT/IL99/00670 and PCT/IL99/00674, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. This application is also related to a PCT application PCT/IB00/00302, filed March 20, 2000~~on even date in the international bureau as a receiving office and having a title "ADVANCED CLOSURE DEVICE" and an attorney docket number 088/01356,~~ the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

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